



What is a

Stadtholder



Stadtholder



Stadhouder

(Dutch)



Stadthouder

“Placeholder”



Place (In Place of)
Stead (Instead of)

Stadthouder

“Placeholder”



Wilhelm Prinz zu Vranien
Graff von Nassau

Three Phases:

1. **R**oyal Steward
2. **R**ebel Leader
3. **R**epublican
Head of State(s)

Steward

In the Middle Ages,
stadtholders
governed territories
as representatives
of higher absentee
nobles.

by Oscar Gende Villar



Habsburg
Netherlands

1472-1581

Provincial adholders appointed
by Habsburg emperors

edit: Denis Jacquerye





William of Orange

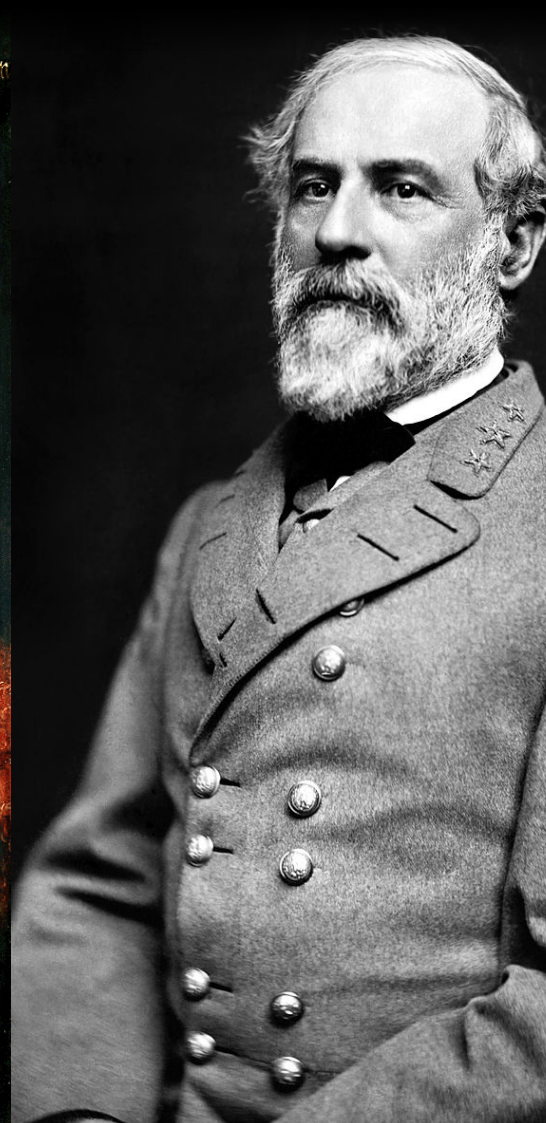
Stadtholder of
Holland, Zeeland,
and Utrecht

William
vs.

Philip II
The Dutch Revolt



he Rebel General





William of Orange

Stadtholder of
Holland, Zeeland,
and Utrecht (1572-1584)

Confederation

In the Republic,
each province
appointed its own
stadtholder.

Joostik (Public Domain)





The States of Holland



William of Orange

Republican
Stadtholder of
Friesland (1580-1584)

Confederation

Several provinces would often appoint the same Stadtholder.



Confederation

But provinces
sometimes
named different
stadtholders.

Typically descendants
of William of Orange

Joostik (Public Domain)





What is a

Stadtholder



Civil Powers

Head of State(s)



1. **Settle differences between provinces**
2. **Recommend and influence the appointment of ambassadors**
3. ***Ex officio* member of the Council of State**
4. **Preside in the Provincial Courts of Justice where his name is prefixed to public Acts**
5. **Supreme Curator of most of the Universities**
6. **Appoint town magistrates**
7. **Gives audiences to Ambassadors**
8. **Power of Pardon**

A portrait of a man in 16th-century armor, likely a military leader. He is wearing a dark, ornate suit of armor with gold-colored decorative elements. He has a white ruff collar and is holding a helmet with a red plume in his left hand. The background is dark. In the upper left corner, there is a small inscription in German script: "Wilhelm von Nassau-Weilburg".

Captain General

*Commander
in-Chief*

A portrait of a man in 17th-century military attire, including a dark tunic with gold trim and a white ruff collar. He is holding a helmet with a red plume. In the background, there is a faint inscription in German: "Wilhelm von Nassau".

Captain General

NOTE: This was technically a separate, concurrently-held office.



Admiral General

[r]epublican Institution



~~KING~~

~~HEREDITARY~~

~~PERMANENT~~



William of Orange

MODEL
STADTHOLDER



“His clothes look like those of a humble student, his jacket is a knitted sweater, like those worn by one of our ferrymen. His friends are citizens of this beer-brewing city (Delft), and he fits in perfectly...”

Words of an English visitor taken from a placard at the Museum Prinsenhof (De





An Evolving Office



PRETENSION

The House of Orange-Nassau

Republican stadtholders
were descendants of
William of Orange.



PROBLEM

The Republic's Constitution
Presented Contradictions.

A Federal Republic


with a

Semi-Hereditary

(Nominally Elected)

Noble Figurehead



A close-up, low-angle shot of a chessboard with alternating light and dark squares. The board is filled with chess pieces, including pawns, knights, and kings, arranged in their starting positions. The lighting is warm and slightly dim, creating a dramatic effect. The text is overlaid on the right side of the board.

Orangists vs. the States

by Cristian V.

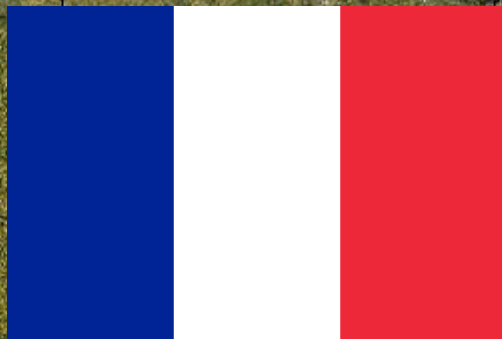
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Stadtholder -General (Hereditary)



William IV & William V
Stadtholders General

1795





by Floris Looijesteijn



LEARNING. DELIVERED.